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General Assembly

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31 October 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-sixth session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 62 (b)

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION: REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Algeria, Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Sri Lanka, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia: draft resolution

Report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions, in particular resolution 45/62 D of 4 December 1990,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament, 1/

Convinced that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, should have the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

Expressing its regret that the Conference on Disarmament was not able in 1991 to commence negotiations on the nuclear issues on its agenda,

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/46/27).

Expressing its expectation that the Conference on Disarmament, in view of the positive current process in some fields of disarmament, will be in a position to reach concrete agreements on disarmament issues to which the United Nations has assigned the greatest priority and urgency and which have been under consideration for a number of years,

Considering that in the present international climate it is more than ever imperative to give additional impetus to negotiations on disarmament at all levels,

Taking note with satisfaction of the relevant paragraphs of the report of the Conference on Disarmament on the progress towards improved and effective functioning of the Conference 2/ and expressing the hope that the process will continue in all aspects of its work,

1. Reaffirms the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;

2. Welcomes the progress in the negotiations on the elaboration of a draft convention on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of all chemical weapons and on their destruction, and urges the Conference on Disarmament to intensify its work with a view to completing negotiations on such a draft convention in 1992;

3. Calls upon the Conference on Disarmament to strengthen its work, within the framework of ad hoc committees as the most appropriate mechanism, and to adopt concrete measures on the specific priority issues of disarmament on its agenda, in accordance with the Programme of Action set forth in section III of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly; 3/

4. Urges the Conference on Disarmament to provide negotiating mandates to ad hoc committees on all agenda items, in keeping with the fundamental role of the Conference as identified in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session;

5. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".

2/ Ibid., paras. 14-17.

3/ Resolution S-10/2.

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Forty-sixth session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 60 (n)

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: CONVENTIONAL DISARMAMENT ON A REGIONAL SCALE

Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Yugoslavia: draft resolution

Confidence- and security-building measures and conventional disarmament in Europe

The General Assembly,

Determined to achieve progress in disarmament,

Stressing that confidence-building and disarmament measures have a positive impact on international security and are facilitated by the reduction of tensions,

Taking note of the work accomplished in 1991 by the Disarmament Commission within the framework of the Working Groups on its agenda items 4 and 6, 1/

Expressing the hope that the improved international climate will facilitate the necessary efforts to build confidence, to lessen the risk of military confrontation and to enhance mutual security,

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1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/46/42), paras. 39 and 41.

Recalling its resolutions 43/75 P of 7 December 1988, 44/116 I of 15 December 1989 and 45/58 I of 4 December 1990,

Reaffirming the great importance of increasing security and stability in Europe through the establishment of a stable, secure and verifiable balance of conventional armed forces at lower levels, as well as through increased openness and predictability of military activities,

Considering that the positive results of the negotiations on confidence- and security-building measures, as well as of those on conventional armaments and forces, both within the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, have considerably increased confidence and improved security and cooperation in Europe, thereby contributing to international peace and security,

Welcoming the prospects for the early implementation of the measures agreed and the continuation of negotiations in these fields among the States participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe,

1. Notes with satisfaction the progress achieved so far in the process of disarmament and the strengthening of confidence and security in Europe;

2. Welcomes the determination of the States signatories of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe fully to implement its provisions and the determination of all the States participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe fully to implement the provisions of the Vienna Document on confidence- and security-building measures, as well as the decision of these States to continue negotiations in these fields;

3. Invites all States to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures with a view to reducing the risk of confrontation and strengthening security, taking due account of their specific regional conditions.

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Agenda item 60 (b)

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS

Colombia and Peru: draft resolution

International arms transfers

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the international transfer and production of conventional arms, including advanced weapons, delivery systems and military technology, as well as the illicit trade in arms, has in recent decades acquired a dimension and qualitative characteristics that give rise to serious and urgent concerns,

Realizing the urgent need to resolve underlying conflicts, to diminish tensions and to accelerate efforts towards general and complete disarmament with a view to maintaining regional and international peace and security in a world free from the scourge of war and the burden of armaments,

Recalling that in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly 1/ it urged major arms recipient and supplier States to consult on the limitation of all types of international transfers of conventional arms,

Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and the commitment of Member States to take concrete steps in order to strengthen that role,

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1/ Resolution S-10/2.

Greatly concerned by the illicit arms trade, a most disturbing and dangerous phenomenon, because of its destabilizing and destructive effects, particularly for the internal situation of affected States, and the violation of human rights,

Realizing that the illicit arms trade supplies the weapons most likely to be used in violent conflict, and that even small arms when transferred, directly or indirectly, to terrorist groups, drug traffickers or underground organizations can pose a danger to regional or international security and certainly to the security and political stability of the countries affected,

Considering that the illicit arms trade, representing a distinctly unique part of modern arms transfers practices, by its clandestine nature defies transparency and could not be dealt with by an arms transfers register,

Recalling its resolution 43/75 I of 7 December 1988,

Welcoming the study submitted by the Secretary-General 2/ pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 43/75 I and prepared with the assistance of governmental experts, on ways and means of promoting transparency in international transfers of conventional arms, as well as the problem of the illicit arms trade,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the above-mentioned study;

2. Calls upon all States to give high priority to eradicating the illicit trade in all kinds of weapons and military equipment, a most disturbing and dangerous phenomenon often associated with terrorism, drug trafficking, organized crime and mercenary and other destabilizing activities, and to take urgent action towards this end, as recommended in the study by the Secretary-General;

3. Urges Member States to exercise effective control over their weapons and military equipment and their arms imports and exports to prevent them from getting into the hands of parties engaged in the illicit arms trade;

4. Also urges Member States to ensure that they have in place an adequate body of laws and administrative machinery for regulating and monitoring effectively their transfers of arms, to strengthen or adopt strict measures for their enforcement, and to cooperate at the international, regional and subregional levels to harmonize relevant laws and administrative procedures as well as their enforcement measures, with the stated goal of eradicating the illicit arms trade according to the recommendation of the study;

2/ A/46/301.

5. Invites Member States to provide the Secretary-General with relevant information on their national arms export, import and procurement policies, legislation and administrative procedures, with regard to both authorization of arms transfers and prevention of illicit transfers;

6. Calls upon affected States to provide the Secretary-General with information regarding arms and military equipment, seized by authorities, destined for the use of terrorists, drug-traffickers and organized crime and for mercenary and other destabilizing activities;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements for information regarding paragraphs 5 and 6 of the present resolution to be issued annually, as an official United Nations publication, and widely distributed;

8. Also requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To assist in holding meetings and seminars at the national, regional and international levels, as pertinent, with a view to:

(i) Promoting the concept of transparency as a confidence-building measure;

(ii) Increasing the awareness of the destructive and destabilizing effects of the illicit traffic in arms and exploring ways and means for its eradication;

(iii) Promoting the development of internationally harmonized laws and administrative procedures relating to official arms procurement and arms transfers policies;

(b) To promote regional and international efforts to eradicate the illicit traffic in arms and provide advisory assistance to Member States, when so requested, on the recommended measures for enforcement of relevant rules and administrative procedures, including the training of customs and other officials;

9. Further requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on progress made in implementing the present resolution;

10. Requests the Disarmament Commission, at its organizational session in 1992, to include the issue of international arms transfers on the agenda of its substantive session in 1993;

11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "International arms transfers".